

CONFERENCE *connection*

Alabama • Georgia • Mississippi
South Carolina • Tennessee • NW Florida



SOUTHEAST UCC Conference

December 15, 2017



Don, Valerie, Carrole, Heather, Marie

*Silent Night,
Holy Night
All is Calm,
All is Bright*

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Christmas Blessings from the Staff of
the Southeast Conference, UCC



Christmas Greetings from your Southeast Conference Staff

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God." (Isaiah 40:1,3)

In this season of anticipation and hope for the future, the staff of the Southeast Conference thanks you all for your prayers and support as we seek renewal and blessing in our ministry with you. We pray continued blessings for all churches, pastors, leaders, and congregants in 2018.

Your Servants in Christ,

Don Harris, Valerie Coe Lowder, Carrole Moss, Heather Fosburgh Bardole, Marie Bacchicchi



News from Around the Conference



Prayer List

We are continuing the process of praying for authorized ministers, congregations, and ministry groups throughout 2017. We encourage you to include these prayer requests in your local church newsletter, share them with your prayer circle, and include them in your own prayers. [Click here to download the entire 2017 prayer list.](#)

Week of December 17

- Jones Chapel Congregational Christian; Woodbury, Georgia
- First Congregational UCC; Marion, Alabama
- Deborah Douglas
- Eulas Kirtdoll
- John Lackey
- Angie Wright

Week of December 24

- Pleasant Hill Community Church; Pleasant Hill, Tennessee
- Tiffany Gibson Cox
- Eddie Colf
- Andrew Kim
- Nelson Kittle
- William Wilson Jr

Week of December 17

- Kirkwood UCC; Atlanta, GA
- Jennifer Crane
- Sarah Kim
- Bill Lawrence
- Sharon Temple

Prayer Requests

- Prayers for **Jess Chancey** as she prepares for her ecclesiastical council on December 18. The meeting will be held at Pilgrimage UCC in Marietta, GA.

Churches in Transition

- Pilgrimage UCC, Marietta, GA; Virginia-Highland Church, Atlanta, GA; Garden of Grace, Columbia SC; United Church of Cookeville, Cookeville TN

News from our Local Congregations



Holy Trinity in Nashville Shares "Love Baggies" with their Community

Over the five Sundays in October during our Worship Series, "THE JOURNEY HOME" we asked the congregation of Holy Trinity Community Church to bring in the following items for our "Love Baggies" ministry. These items were packaged for distribution to the homeless around the city. Our youth and children assembled these gifts throughout the month. [Read more.](#)



Pleasant Hill Church Wednesday Evening Documentaries

The PHCC Ecojustice Class sponsors documentaries on current and timely concerns each Wednesday evening. On Dec 20 beginning at 5:00 they will discuss "Materialism" as shared through TED Talk videos and group conversation. Coffee, juices, fruit, yogurt, & snacks are provided. For further information call Don Clark at (931) 277-5467

Training, Retreat and Other Opportunities

PATHWAYS Announces Three New Course Offerings

PATHWAYS Theological Education announces three course offerings to begin the new year. With a start date of January 10, 2018, these courses will provide local church leaders and Members in Discernment with knowledge and expertise needed for ministry today. The January courses include:

- **Dynamics of Difference:** Many congregations today have members with backgrounds in various religious and faith traditions. Because of these backgrounds, congregants bring different understandings and expectations about faith, dogma, and spirituality. The Rev. Julius Jessup, a Licensed Clinical Social Worker will facilitate this course which includes video and audio streaming and engaging discussion.
- **Christian Faith Formation:** This course will explore the role of faith formation, beginning with childhood and Godly Play, through adulthood, while helping participants consider how the local church can support the spiritual growth of its members in programmatic ways. The course is ideal for those involved in education-related programs in the local church as well as Members in Discernment. Commissioned Minister Debbie Gline Allen facilitates this course.
- **Small Church Administration:** One of the greatest challenges for small congregations is maintaining the administrative functions of the church. This course, ideal for pastors, church council members, and other leaders in small churches will provide practical tools that can be used to manage the business of a small congregation. The Rev. June Boutwell (most recently our Interim Conference Minister) will facilitate this course.

These PATHWAYS courses are online using an asynchronous format, allowing participants to access the course room based on each person's schedule. The courses are six-weeks in length and require six to eight hours of work each week. Learning objectives for each course are reflective of the Marks of Faithful and Effective Ministers in the United Church of Christ. The tuition for each course is \$375. [Learn more.](#)

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